

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 TEHRAN 07386 021416Z

43

ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 W

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R 021305Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8003

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

S E C R E T TEHRAN 7386

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, IN, IR

SUBJ: MIDLINK 74

REF: A. ISLAMABAD 8233 B. NEW DELHI 10744

ALTHOUGH WE APPRECIATE AMBASSADOR MOYNIHAN'S CONCERN WITH POSS-
IBLE INDIAN REACTION TO MIDLINK 74, BELIEVE ANY MOVE BY US TO
DROP OUT OF, OR DIMINISH OUR ROLE IN, THIS YEAR'S EXERCISE WOULD
PROFOUNDLY DISTURB IRAN. IRANIAN PREPARATIONS ARE WILL IN HAND AND
IIN IS EAGERLY LOOKING FORWARD TO JOINT OPERATIONS. WE CAN THINK
OF NO RATIONALE WHICH WOULD LEAD IRANIAN OFFICIALS AWAY FROM THE
NATURAL SUSPICION THAT BY DOWNGRADING MIDLINK AT THIS STAGE, WE
WERE DE-EMPHASIZING OUR INTEREST IN THE SECURITY OF THIS REGION.
IN THE PAST, ROUTINE MIDLINK EXERCISES HAVE ATTRACTED LITTLE OR
NO PUBLIC ATTENTION. LAST YEAR'S OPERATION IN THE PERSIAN GULF
SHORTLY AFTER THE ARAB/ISRAELI WAR PROVOKED NO SIGNIFICANT COM-
MENT OF WHICH WE ARE AWARE. ALTHOUGH THIS YEAR'S EXERCISE IS A
BIGGER SHOW, WE BELIEVE RESPONSIBLE CRITICISM CAN BE EFFECTIVELY
HANDLED. FURTHER, WE DOUBT THAT INDIAN GOVERNMENT WOULD WISH TO
PICK A QUARREL WITH IRAN, ITS NEW FRIEND AND BENEFACTOR, OVER
ISSUE OF ROUTINE NAVAL EXERCISE.

HELMS

SECRET

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